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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-251 *30 December 1994*

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Churkin on Building Dialogue With NATO, WEU

MM2912143594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Dec 94 p 4

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Belgium, by Nikita Shevtsov in Brussels; date not given: "Dialogue Between Russia and NATO Continues"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vitaliy Ivanovich Churkin, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Belgium, simultaneously liaises officially between Russia and NATO and also the Western European Union [WEU]. His recent appointment to this post was met with satisfaction in both in Belgium's governing and political circles and within the NATO and WEU leaderships. Our conversation was given over to questions of relations between Russia and NATO.

[Shevtsov] Vitaliy Ivanovich, a meeting of chiefs of staff from a number of NATO countries took place in The Hague recently. A Russian representative was invited. What was it about?

[Churkin] This was a serious working meeting which took place on the initiative of a number of NATO countries. Not all NATO countries were represented at it, only those providing men for the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia or those involved in the settlement of the conflict there. Unfortunately, the chief of staff of the Russian Armed Forces was unable to arrive in time for this meeting. Therefore I was given the task of participating in it as our country's representative.

I can say that this was an unprecedented meeting as the North Atlantic Alliance's highest-ranking officers discussed in a frank and businesslike atmosphere with the Russian representative what could be done to normalize the situation in Bosnia and increase the effectiveness of the UN forces there.

I think that the very fact that such a meeting was held demonstrates better than any words the possibility of real cooperation between NATO and Russia in questions of guaranteeing international security, in particular as regards the Bosnian crisis.

The peacekeeping forces' role and significance were confirmed at the meeting. Here the discussion proceeded from the idea that a switch to military operations is incompatible with their mission. A scenario of the events in Bosnia which amounted to a political settlement was examined. On the basis of this, the peacekeeping forces will continue to act within the framework of their present mandate to maintain peace and provide humanitarian aid to the population. It is important that they have no intention of exceeding their mandate, remaining equally distant from all the warring parties and acting objectively and without partiality. At the same time the peacekeeping forces have been called on to cooperate with all those who have been drawn into the conflict, basing their behavior with them on a spirit of cooperation and not on pressure based on force.

At present ways of carrying out humanitarian flights to Sarajevo are in particular being examined without waiting for the agreement of any of the sides—the Bosnian Serbs or the others. We are also concerned about this as we have a Russian peacekeeping force in Sarajevo.

As a whole the views of Russia and NATO coincided on a whole range of issues at the meeting in The Hague. I heard it said on more than one occasion in informal conversations at the meeting that our country and the North Atlantic Alliance can cooperate successfully.

[Shevtsov] How, then, can you explain the fact that our country refused to sign the program of partnership with NATO? You, after all, were present at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council with Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev when this happened.

[Churkin] I think that it is first of all necessary to get right to the bottom of this matter. I think that it will not offend anybody to say that NATO was quick to pretend that answers existed to the questions before they were even posed. On the subject of the alliance's expansion, the NATO members state it cannot have any sense if it leads to antagonism with Russia a new division of Europe. But how actually can this conflict be avoided in the process of expansion? Without beating around the bush, we must sort all this out properly together with NATO. Incidentally, some progress in this extremely contentious question is already being made. The present differences of opinion were, in particular, discussed in depth during U.S. Vice President Gore's visit to Moscow.

In my view, our relations with NATO could, so to speak, develop in two directions. The first would involve an intensive dialogue based on the main provisions of the Russia-NATO program. The second would involve a discussion of the possibility of expanding the alliance within the framework of the creation of a more all-embracing structure of European security. It was just such a structure that was discussed at the recent summit meeting in Budapest within the framework of the CSCE.

The most important thing I would like to emphasize is that at the present stage the refusal to "launch" the program of cooperation does not in any way testify to a crisis in our relations with NATO. Nobody is refusing to have contacts.

I do not in any way intend to be an apologist for NATO, but it is necessary to admit that cooperation with this organization is useful to us from various points of view. We have long frightened ourselves with NATO but have never had a conflict with it. NATO has always considered itself to be a defensive bloc, and engaged in military operations outside the borders of its member-countries

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for only the first time in Yugoslavia, having been sanctioned by the UN Security Council to do so.

It is extremely important for us to develop a political dialogue with NATO; only in this way can we influence this or that decision by this bloc. At the same time, by participating in a dialogue we would be able to explain our actions and standpoint and express our fears, gaining the understanding which, for example, was shown at the meeting in The Hague. We could thereby avoid harmful isolation when a series of important political questions are being discussed. The development of a common position would without doubt facilitate the strengthening of international security, including that of Europe.

We am not going to disregard the purely military aspect of relations with NATO. Cooperation could facilitate the reform of our Armed Forces. The organization of their activities should meet world standards. Then the money allotted to defense will be used more efficiently. Here NATO's leading experience in armed forces' organizational development is extremely important to us. For their part NATO countries do not hide the fact that they have something to learn from our Army's experience and training.

[Shevtsov] How are the NATO countries reacting to events in Chechnya?

[Churkin] As yet no official NATO statements have been made on Chechnya. I, for example, was not questioned about this conflict in The Hague. I think that they were showing some tact. But at the same time I felt that the full seriousness of the dilemma confronting Russia is understood in NATO. After all the question of respecting the rule of law and preserving territorial integrity came up. It is clear that the use of force in Chechnya is a responsible and dramatic step taken within Russia. It cannot, however, be ruled out that a refusal to take this step might in the future have even more tragic consequences. This is roughly what people within NATO think, although I repeat that they do not have an official standpoint.

[Shevtsov] You also maintain contacts with the WEU. Could you possibly say a few words on how Russia is building its relations with this organization?

[Churkin] The WEU is an organization which is gaining in strength. At present it represents a forum for dialogue, for the implementation of small practical matters. The WEU does not have such a rigid military-political structure as NATO. Russia is building an increasingly concrete dialogue with this organization, with which we have the same views on number of areas of European development. The recent speech by Russian Foreign Minister A.V. Kozyrev at the WEU Parliamentary Assembly met with a satisfied reaction. Our minister's meeting with the WEU's new secretary general, J. Cutileiro, was useful. The contacts could also produce practical results; the possibility of the WEU's Satellite Center acquiring photographs taken by our spacecraft is under discussion. This would be a commercial deal of equal benefit to both sides.

[Shevtsov] One last question. How do you feel in your new post?

[Churkin] I've settled in quickly. I recently handed my letters of credence to King of the Belgians Albert II. The work I am engaged in is interesting. I am satisfied. It is nice that a good collective has been assembled at the Russian Embassy in Belgium. I hope to be of use in my new position.

Arbatov: S-300 Sale to U.S. 'Worse Than Espionage'

LD2912184094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 29 (Interfax)—The sale of the air defence complex S-300 PMU to the United States will undoubtedly have a negative effect on relations between Russia and Belarus, according to the head of the Institute for U.S. and Canada Studies Georgiy Arbatov.

In a Thursday interview with Interfax he said the incident is worse than espionage. "It is not simply a question of collecting intelligence information but selling classified articles to the enemy or at least a third party that is even not our ally," the scholar explained.

In Arbatov's opinion in the present conditions Moscow must keep Minsk responsible for the incident. He also finds it useful to stop deliveries of secret weapons to Belarus.

At the same time he does not think it useful to stage any demarches against the USA. "We would look quite pitiful. All intelligence services, including our own, do such things. It is normal. If we failed to prevent it, it is late doing anything," Arbatov said.

...WHILE MINSK FINDS DEAL LEGAL AND CLAIMS IT WAS AGREED WITH MOSCOW [subhead as received]

MINSK, Dec 29 (Interfax-West)—As a source close to the Belarusian Defence Minister told Interfax Thursday, Minsk sold only one element of the air defence complex to the USA—the homing system that cannot be used separately for anti-missile defence.

According to the source, the defence ministry gave its consent for the delivery of individual components of the system for which Belarus hopes to get $885,000.

The source stressed that in advance the deal was approved by all interested agencies, except intelligence services, which found it undesirable due to possible difficulties with Russia.

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Earlier at a news conference in Minsk the Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Tsepkalo said that not only the Belarusian government was aware of the coming deal. He said that the documents for the deal carry the signature of one of the Russian vice-premiers.

Tsepkalo chose not to name the Russian cabinet member who gave his approval of the deal.

Davydov: Moscow Serious About Foreign Debt Repayment

LD2912124394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 29 Dec 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—"We regard the problem of our debts with all seriousness and are ready to adopt a realistic approach to the solution of the indebtedness problem," Russia's Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told ITAR-TASS today.

"The time of empty promises unconnected to the actual economic situation is past. But it is necessary to remember that in order to be able to pay the debts, it is necessary to survive in the new conditions, and that means that all forces and means must be given to restore Russia's economic potential," the vice-premier said.

"Earlier, we used only one methods to repay our debts—we paid them in freely convertible currency. But world practice also knows other mechanisms. For example, we are prepared to consider long-term leasing Russian industrial installations to foreign investors as part of repayment of our debts. Another option is to issue promissory notes as a means of settlement, particularly for unguaranteed loans with payment deadlines set proceeding from the terms of the Paris Club. Yet another option is to make a more active use of other countries' debts to Russia. The proposal made by a number of countries to write off their debts is unacceptable for Russia at present, because the country is going through hard times," Oleg Davydov said.

"It is very bad for Russia that it does not act independently on foreign stock markets. It does not yet have its own major investment fund capable of adequately representing Russia's interests. This makes the country rely on services of powerful international investment companies which wield global influence and enjoy global trust, accumulate huge amounts of information, maintain long-standing contacts, know the market and trace any movement of capital," Davydov said.

"It is time to give up services of individual consultants and enlist cooperation of efficient major investment companies such as Merril Lynch and Solomon Brothers, who service the governments of other countries," Davydov said.

"If this entire mechanism is set into motion, Russia's crediting market will expand considerably," Davydov stressed. "As soon as this happens, Russian commercial banks will receive access to the world's credit resources".

U.S. Money Seen as Key to Baykonur Lease Arrangements

MM2912135794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Dec 94 p 2

[Article by Sergey Leskov: "Baykonur Recruits Its Own Army Outside the Defense Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of 1 January 1995, the Baykonur Cosmodrome, which Russia leases from Kazakhstan, will start recruiting 16,000 servicemen to service space programs of national economic significance, as it is customary to say. The upkeep of this contingent has been officially registered outside the Defense Ministry budget.

The Russian Space Agency attributes the need for such an original measure to the disastrous outflow of specialists from the world's largest cosmodrome. Instead of 28,000 servicemen, as laid down for the establishment, there are now just 12,000 people in uniform at Baykonur. It is too costly to invite civilian specialists and, moreover, there are no longer any enthusiasts to be found who could resign themselves to the joyless domestic conditions in the Aral region. Of the 16,000 servicemen, over 10,000 will be compulsory service soldiers, virtually a free work force.

At the same time in 1995 there will be an appreciable revival of activity at the cosmodrome, which recently was thought to be moribund. Instead of the 13 civilian launches in 1994, their number will increase to 21. There will be 11 launches under the Russian-U.S. Mir-Shuttle program. In the spring U.S. astronauts will begin a three-month flight on a Russian complex, while at the end of the summer a European Space Agency astronaut will head out into space for four months. Russian cosmonauts will, as usual, be on board Mir all year round.

In terms of its financial position the largest Russian cosmodrome resembles the mysterious Bermuda triangle. Despite the agreement signed with Kazakhstan on leasing Baykonur for an annual payment of $115 million, Russia did not pay a single cent for the cosmodrome in 1994. Russian officials reckon that payment for the cosmodrome can be made in terms of clearing operations with Kazakhstan—which might come as a surprise to our southern neighbor. Incidentally, Kazakhstan's parliament has not yet ratified the leasing treaty.

But, even with the best will, it is not clear where the money is to be found to pay for the lease. The Americans paid Russia just 49 billion rubles [R] in 1994. The Russian Space Agency received just over half of the R610 billion provided for in the budget. But these are the prices: The launch of a heavy Proton costs R23 billion, and the launch of a Soyuz R12 billion. Two Protons and nine Soyuzes are being launched from Baykonur in 1995

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under the Mir-Shuttle program alone. Naturally, the money for equipping the craft and preparing them for launch has to be obtained in good time.

In this situation it only remains for both Russia and Kazakhstan to hope to receive money punctually from the U.S. partner. The main sources of income are the installation of U.S. equipment on the Spektr module, astronauts' flights, and the prolongation of the life of the aged Mir at someone else's expense. But let us not get our foreign currency calculations wrong. What optimistic expectations there were of the agreement signed two years ago to launch the Inmarsat satellite for $38 million! It now turns out that that price might make a loss for Russia....

Duma Resolution Proposes Reunification With Belarus

MK2912115894 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Dec 94 p 2

[Vladimir Kucherenko report in the "CIS Deadlocks" column: "The Sate Duma Calls on Belarus To Unite With Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This event nearly got lost behind the noise of the Chechen war. Too bad. On 23 December the State Duma decided to send to the Belarusian parliament an address inviting it to discuss a mechanism for a unification of the two countries.

This was initiated by LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] State Duma deputies A. Mitrofanov and E. Mikhaylov, who drew up a draft parliament resolution "On Measures To Restore the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus."

According to E. Mikhaylov, the disintegration of the USSR and the abolition of the unity of Belarus and Russia has brought about a rupture of all links and caused tremendous damage to both peoples. The current geopolitical situation makes unification especially imperative.

The draft envisions that the State Duma will address the Belarusian parliament with a proposal to convene 17 March 1995 a joint session of both legislatures in Moscow. The Duma Committees on Geopolitics, on CIS Affairs and Compatriots Abroad, and on Legislation and Judicial Reform are invited to prepare a draft declaration on reunification and also recommendations for holding a joint session. Naturally, in contact with the counterpart Belarusian committees.

Voting on this question was enthusiastic. The move was supported by 95 percent of the LDPR deputies, 87 percent of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction (the "Zyuganovites"), 82 percent of the Agrarians, 55 percent of the Women of Russia, and 53 percent of the Democratic Party of Russia deputies. The idea of restoring a union state was sharply rejected by Russia's Choice (only 10 percent in favor), Yabloko (4 percent in favor), and PRES (16 percent).

The New Regional Policy factions and deputies not affiliated with any factions cast 42 and 45 percent of their votes in favor of unification, respectively.

Cuba Voices Concern Over Chechen Situation

LD2912214394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2121 GMT 29 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konsatantin Zhukovskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Havana December 30 TASS—The Government of Cuba, ensuing from the strict observance of principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, as well as the importance which protection of the territorial integrity and unity of peoples comprising the Russian Federation for the world and international security, considers the conflict that broke out in the Republic of Chechnya as an internal affair of Russia, a Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today, he noted that the conflict in Chechnya is causing concern here.

The official emphasised that Cuba regrets that so far no way out has been found of the conflict through negotiations. We are in favour of a solution, which can put an early end to the situation running counter to the legitimate interests of the peoples of Russia, the Cuban Foreign Ministry official emphasised.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Delivers New Year's Address to Troops

LD3012131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—The Russian president and supreme commander-in-chief Boris Yeltsin has made a New Year address to units of the Russian Defence, the Interior and the Ministry for Emergency Situations, border guard troops and Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, who are performing their task of disarming illegal armed formations and restoring constitutional order on the Chechen territory.

The address reads as follows:

"Comrades, generals and officers, ensigns, rank-and-file servicemen of the Russian armed forces and other troops!

I extend to you my greetings on the occasion of the New Year, being aware of the importance to realise, being far away from home in order to perform a responsible and dangerous military task, that you are remembered and that the people have their trust in you and connect with you their hopes.

I want to point out that, as a commander-in-chief, I believe in you and hope for your courage and loyalty to your constitutional duty.

All of you will remember this New Year's day spent far away from your homes. Nevertheless, it is you who will help those, who is looking forward to your return and will drink to your success on the new year's night, live in peace in 1995. Thanks to your selfless efforts and exploits, the people dear to you will live in a safer and more peaceful country—their motherland.

I am confident that the Chechen people will appreciate the importance of your activities for the sake of the preservation of our motherland—integral and inseparable Russia.

I wish you a happy New Year!

I wish that you hold on and carry out your noble task and that those servicemen who were injured recover as soon as possible.

I am confident that Russian servicemen will accomplish their tasks with honor as it has always been in our history."

[signed] Boris Yeltsin

Parties Hold Yeltsin, Chechnya Support Rally

LD2912194794

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 29 December during the "Vesti" newscast broadcast a 2-minute video report by an unidentified correspondent on right-wing, nationalist, and pro-fascist parties and movements who held an unsanctioned rally in Moscow today in support of the decisions adopted by President Yeltsin and the Security Council on Chechnya and the Russian troop operations there.

"People who have criticized the president and the government on almost every issue have unexpectedly taken their side," the correspondent says. One demonstrator calls for "the destruction of every single armed formation" in Chechnya; another said Russian troops should have been brought in "much earlier, in 1991."

Oleg Finko, a State Duma deputy from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia faction, is shown addressing the rally. He calls for elections to be held in Chechnya to allow the people to choose their own authorities, adding, however, that Chechnya must remain part of Russia.

Pain Cites Differences Between Words, Actions

LD2912230794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 29 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Dec—Emil Pain, section head at the Russian Federation president's analytical center, has drawn attention to the scandalous lack of conformity between Moscow's proclaimed striving for a political settlement in the Chechen crisis and the purely military actions in the North Caucasus. In an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent he stressed that these differences were evident both at the first stage and at the recently announced second stage in the Chechen campaign.

Reviewing events in the first stage, he noted that Mikhaylov's commission did not succeed in traveling to Mozdok for the start of the announced negotiations with Groznyy, but that the Russian Army went into Chechnya before the deadline for the voluntary surrender of weapons expired. The same thing is happening at the second stage as well, according to Emil Pain. "The president did not manage to finish his speech in which he noted the need for stepping up political ways to resolve the Chechen crisis before Russian tanks began the 'real taking' of Groznyy," the expert on interethnic policy said.

In the opinion of Emil Pain: "It is difficult to explain this difference between words and deeds as just a desire to confuse Dudayev's supporters and to calm the Russians on the eve of the New Year." He also reported that the section he heads at the analytical center began making assessments and forecasts of the immediate and long-term consequences of Russia's strong-arm policy in Chechnya for inter-ethnic relations.

Shakhray on Chechnya Information Commission

MM3012144594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Ovsiyenko: "Actions of Power Structures Must Be Open to Press"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Probably nobody has any doubts that Groznyy has won the propaganda war over the Russian leadership. Directly and indirectly, this defeat is also confirmed by another structural change in the government's information policy on coverage of the Chechen crisis. Henceforth, all threads for guiding this policy are concentrated in the hands of Vice Premier S. Shakhray, who, on the instructions of the government, has assumed the head of a special information analysis commission.

"Two tasks lie before us," S. Shakhray says. "First: monitoring reports in the mass media on events in Chechnya and analyzing public opinion in the context of the perception of government decisions. Second: covering the activity of the federal authorities to settle the crisis in Chechnya."

S. Shakhray gave assurances that materials gathered by the commission will be put to good use, including by the government, for the purposes of adopting or modifying its decisions.

"My instructions on the publication of the commission's materials will be binding for all state mass media; kray and oblast heads are expected to convey them to the population of their regions."

As for talk that censorship is being introduced, S. Shakhray responded to this question thus:

"As if we don't have enough on our plate with the bombardment of Chechnya without adding censorship to it...."

Shakhray's commission is not being created out of thin air: All structures from the dismantled Temporary Information Center are being transferred to the Government Press Service, which has also become the basis of the commission. The suppliers of timely information will be the Ministry of Defense; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Federal Counterintelligence Service; the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters; the Federal Border Service; and a number of other departments involved in settling the Chechen crisis.

In the vice premier's view, the Temporary Information Center, which was headed by S. Gryzunov, chairman of the Russian Committee for the Press, functioned satisfactorily, although it did have complaints against the power structures, which were extremely grudging about sharing information. Henceforth all instructions issued by the commission, S. Shakhray stressed, are binding for all Russia's ministries and departments.

Vice Premier S. Shakhray did not touch on the subject of a number of mass media sources having "sold out" to the Dudayev regime, as mentioned by Russia's president in his recent appeal.

The Federal Counterintelligence Service asserts that it is in possession of monitored radio information from official sources in Groznyy in which direct instructions are given to use all resources, including material resources, to ensure that the Russian mass media carry information necessary to Dudayev. However, the Federal Counterintelligence Service refused to name the publication and journalists receiving money and emoluments for their "work" for Groznyy. We will await the outcome of the investigation, A. Mikhaylov, chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Public Relations Center, assured me.

Army Continues Groznyy Bombardment

LD2912233894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 2300 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Army is continuing its air and artillery bombardment of Groznyy tonight, we have learned by telephone from the Chechen capital. There is no exact information about damage or casualties.

At about midnight [2100 GMT] I had a telephone conversation with (Aslanbek Dadayev), deputy director of the CHECHENPRESS news agency, speaking from Groznyy. (Aslanbek) told me that Russian troops, aviation, and artillery are shelling Groznyy again, despite assurances by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Spokesman on 'Grad' Missile Use

AU3012112294 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Chechnya Does Not Want the Blood of Russian Soldiers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some people associate the developments in Chechnya with possible peace talks. [Chechen President] Dzhokhar Dudayev has confirmed his readiness to start negotiations. He again proposed that Russian troops be immediately withdrawn from the territory of Chechnya and pointed out that the Chechen side "does not want the blood of Russian soldiers." He responded extremely negatively to the decisions adopted on 28 December by the Russian Federation Security Council and stated that "Russia's supreme political leadership, headed by President Yeltsin, is either deliberately falsifing events or is unaware of the true situation."

Dudayev's Press Secretary Kh. Raduyev denied reports from Moscow to the effect that defense rings using tanks and "Grad" missile launchers had been set up around the Presidential Palace in Groznyy.

Reporters Banned From Units, Despite Invitation

LD3012141094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 30 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Nikolay Zagnoyko]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 30 TASS—Correspondents from the ITAR-NEWS agency have failed to take advantage of an invitation made by the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to visit military units on Friday morning.

Despite Grachev's invitation made at a news conference in Mozdok on Thursday, units of the Defence Ministry turned out to be a zone banned for outsiders. Guards of the Interior Ministry have been posted all around the units, and no one there has been informed about the invitation.

A serviceman in the rank of a captain on guard near the settlement of Ordzhonikidzevskaya in Ingushetia, who declined to give his name, did not allow the reporters to get in touch by radio with a military unit stationed 8-10 kilometers away down the federal highway "Caucasus". After journalists made an attempt to approach a convoy of armoured carriers on their own, soldiers instantaneously pointed guns at them and the journalists had to drive away.

Press Service Remarks on Oil Tank Blaze

LD3012130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1053 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government's press service has circulated the following report:

"According to military intelligence, fire continues at one of the oil refineries in the immediate vicinity of Groznyy. All the plants of this industry have been mined on instruction of the Groznyy leaders, and can be blown up at any moment. The plants are guarded by reinforced units of militants. Attempts by Russian units to approach them threaten to cause great losses. Not a single plant has been subjected to bombing or shelling.

The plant on fire is situated near a ammonia storage facility. According to 1992 data, 30 tonnes of ammonia is stored there. There is information that in the last 2 years a considerable amount of this substance has been exported. Specialists from the Russian Defense Ministry's chemical troops estimate that there could be between 10 and 20 tonnes of ammonia in this place, close to the burning plant. Should an explosion occur, people within a radius of 200-350 meters would be in direct danger. Emission of gases could last 10-12 hours and spread over a radius of 1.5-2 kms, depending on weather and wind conditions.

The economic decline in the Chechen Republic in the last two and one-half years has affected the oil industry fire services. The fire-fighting equipment has been looted and, in spite of the real threat to the Groznyy suburbs, the fire is extremely difficult to put out.

The conclusions made by the special chemical defense troops and the Ministry of Emergency Situations are unambiguous: even if the events take the worst turn and there is an explosion at the ammonia storage facility, there would be no "ecological catastrophe."

University in Moscow Receives Bomb Threat

LD3012121794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 30 (Interfax)—Officials of the Bauman University of Technology in Moscow received an anonymous phone call at about 11:00 on Friday saying that a bomb was planted there but he did not say where exactly, our correspondent reports from the scene.

All people were evacuated from the premises in a matter of twenty minutes and reports say that searches were still continuing at 12:30.

Substation Fire Causes Moscow Blackout

LD3012121694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 30 (Interfax)—One of Moscow's transformer substations stopped functioning at 4:46 on December 30, the Moscow power production authority told Interfax. As a result, lights went out in a big housing development near Moscow's Kutuzovskiy Avenue.

The substation caught fire which is described by the officer-on-duty of the metropolitan firefighting department as three-point on the generally accepted five-point scale. Firefighters lost no time in extinguishing it. Experts are considering what might have caused the accident at the transformer substation.

The power production authority hopes that electricity will be restored to the housing project by midday.

RNU Calls for Tighter Control on Media

MK3012100294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev under the "Resolve" rubric: "Russian National Unity: The Press Must Be Brought in Line With the Constitution. Barkashov's Supporters Demand End to 'Political Terror'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Council of the Russian National Unity [RNU] movement suggested yesterday that the authorities exercise tighter control over the mass media. A statement of the RNU Central Council, which was made public yesterday by Aleksandr Rashitskiy, chief of the Barkashov party's press service, said that this would make it possible to prevent "a collapse of Russian territorial integrity and civil war."

Actually, Mr. Barkashov's supporters called in the press to talk about "political terror in Russia" to which, according to Mr. Rashitskiy, "the RNU has been subjected," for in the past seven months "four leaders and

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activists of our movement have perished" in car accidents and from pistol shots. Mr. Rashitskiy claimed that the Barkashovites would be able "to find and punish the perpetrators, organizers, and instigators of such acts in any case." He stressed, however, that "we have no intention of supplanting current legislation or the current state." For this reason the RNU Central Council demanded that the State Duma and the Russian Federation president "immediately and effectively put an end to political terror."

The RNU accompanied its demand by a reference to "responsibility for political stability and territorial integrity." According to the Barkashovites' logic, this "responsibility" should prompt the top authority to pay closer attention to the mass media, which, Mr. Rashitskiy said, "have become a self-appointed 'fourth estate,' not provided for in the Constitution, and have repeatedly launched information campaigns to stir up political passions against statesmen and politicians, and also political parties and public movements."

Aleksandr Rashitskiy called the campaigns "a catalyst of processes aimed at destabilizing society." The only administrative measure the Russian authorities should take in response is "to bring the so-called 'fourth estate' in line with the current Constitution." It was pointed out at the news conference that "neither open nor secret inquiries conducted by the prosecutor's office, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and the Internal Affairs Ministry" have established a single fact lending credibility to the mass media's attempts "to portray our organization as an extremist and terrorist group."

Economic Issues

Banker Denies Fixed Dollar Exchange Rate

LD3012141494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 30 BUSINESS-TASS—Reports which appeared on Friday in some mass media bodies on the introduction of the fixed rouble exchange rate against the dollar do not correspond to reality, Andrey Kovalev, head of the currency rates department of the Russian Federation Central Bank told BUSINESS-TASS.

"These reports are based on unverified information and are a false interpretation of rumours," he said.

Department Releases Bankruptcy Figures

LD2912123794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 29 (FIA)—More than 1,200 Russian enterprises whose assets make up a quarter of the federal property have been declared and will soon go into receivership, the federal department for insolvencies told the Financial Information Agency, FIA.

The overall debt run by these plants employing a total of 1.8 million people is about Rbl 10 trillion, department experts say.

The list of bankrupt plants is mounting and more than 4,500 other enterprises are now showing signs of insolvency, they say. Most of the bankrupt businesses are in the fuel and energy, and agro- industrial complexes, and in defence and mining industries.

A decision has now been taken on 122 plants to go into receivership. Arbitration courts have handled 102 insolvency cases this year.

Military & Space Issues

Air Force Assembles Second Experimental Bomber

MM2912160094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Beltsov from the Russian Federation Air Force Press Center: "Front-Line Aviation Receives Addition. And How!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Novosibirsk—The second Su-34 experimental multifunctional front-line bomber has been assembled at the V.P. Chkalov Novosibirsk Aircraft Production Association.

This plane, which is without parallel in the world, embodies the in-depth development of the Su-27IB combat training aircraft. It was created at the P.O. Sukhoy Russian Experimental and Design Bureau. The new bomber is capable of hitting highly hardened pinpoint targets in any weather conditions, day and night. The multifunctional radar system installed on board makes it possible to "see" even small targets on the ground and to attack them with high precision. The Su-34 is expected to become the nucleus of the Russian Federation Air Force's front-line aviation in the next few years.

Space Forces Launch Three Satellites

LD2912175494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 29 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Dec—From 26 to 29 December three space missiles ("Proton-K", "Rokot", "Soyuz-U") were launched from the Baykonur cosmodrome by the Military Space Forces. The missiles placed in orbit the geostationary communications satellite "Raduga", the amateur radio satellite "Radio-ROSTO" and the military satellite "Kosmos-2305". During this period the launch vehicle "Tsiklon-3" was launched from the Baykonur cosmodrome with six satellites in the "Kosmos" series for the low orbital system of satellite communications.

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Cosmos-2305 Satellite Reaches Orbit

LD3012094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1741 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Artificial earth satellite Cosmos-2305, for use in the interests of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, was launched today with the help of a Soyuz booster rocket from the Baykonur cosmodrome.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following initial parameters: Period of revolution - 89 minutes; apogee - 306 km; perigee - 189 km; orbital inclination - 65 degrees.

The apparatus on board the satellite is working normally.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council To Debate Shumeyko's Removal

LD2912115294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 29 (INTERFAX)—The issue of removing Vladimir Shumeyko from the position of the Federation Council chairman will be included, without discussion, in the agenda of the Russian upper house's next meeting, Budget Committee Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Titkin, who also chairs the Ways and Means Commission, told INTERFAX Wednesday night.

The deputies who want Shumeyko replaced say that he had failed to notify the house on the invasion of Chechnya and that he did not represent the Federation Council's interests.

Titkin said that the commission had discussed Tuesday the removal of the council chairman, the issue that had been raised by the council's Security and Defense Committee at the last meeting of the Federation Council. The issue had not been included in the agenda then because the committee had not submitted its decision in writing.

Titkin said that the Ways and Means Commission had ruled that the committee did not have to submit any documents. He explained that because the meeting had been legitimate and the decision had been made by a majority of votes, the issue would be included in the agenda of the Federation Council's session to be held in January.

Rybkin Summation of Duma Line on Chechnya Talks

MM2812164894 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Dec 94 First Edition p 2

["State Duma Press Service Statement of 23 December 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the dissemination in a number of mass media of commentaries misrepresenting the position of State Duma Chairman I.P. Rybkin in respect of events in Chechnya and the stance adopted during a discussion of this question by the Security Council 17 December this year, we deem it necessary to cite an excerpt from his speech at the 22 December plenary session of the State Duma. In particular, he said that in answer to the Russian Federation president's appeal to the deputies, the Duma has formulated its own position as follows:

"First: the subject of the talks. As far as the subject of talks is concerned, we believe that the republic's status is not up for discussion, as the very title of the decree on the situation in the Chechen Republic as a Federation component contains the answer to this question, and it lies within the framework of the Constitution.

"Second: the parties to the talks. An answer to this is provided by the State Duma decree of 23 March 1994. The parties to the conflict may participate in talks: Dudayev, Gantemirov, Labazanov, Avturkhanov, and many others, and the armed groupings behind them.

"Third point: the terms for the talks. A cease-fire and disarmament, with the subsequent holding of democratic elections under the supervision of our body of deputies, with international observers if need be.

"Fourth point: oversight commissions. The Duma consented to participate as a third party in a tripartite joint oversight commission and appointed the deputies, who are: State Duma Deputy Chairman Valentin Kovalev; committee chairmen Sergey Shapovalov, chairman of the Committee for Federation Affairs and Regional Policy, and Bair Zhamsuyev, chairman of the Committee for Nationalities' Affairs; Yuriy Rodionov and Nikolay Bezborodov, deputy chairmen of the Defense Committee; and Nikolay Stolyarov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Geopolitics."

Regional Affairs

Army Prepares, Endorses Chechnya Nerve Gas Plan

LD2912200094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The general headquarters of the Russian Armed Forces and the Russian Academy of Chemical Weapons have prepared and endorsed a plan for the use of warheads with nerve gas substances of the CS type in Chechnya, UNIAN has learned from competent sources.

The warheads will be used in precision weapons. A group of experts from the Russian Army chemical service is currently in Mozdok for this purpose.

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Chechen Speaker Proposes International Talks

LD2912170694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1605 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our radio station has learned that Chechen Parliament Speaker Akhyad Idigov today sent telegrams to the speakers of both chambers of Russia's Federal Assembly and to President Yeltsin.

In the first telegram he proposes that a joint international conference should be held that will determine the authority of the Russian Constitution on the territory of Chechnya; in the second telegram he asks the Russian president to halt the bombings of Groznyy and proposes sitting down at the negotiating table.

For the time being nothing is known of any response by the Russian side.

Defense Ministry Denies Downed Aircraft Report

LD2912150094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1400 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian troops' military action against Dzhokhar Dudayev's formations continued around the Chechen capital today. Groznyy asserts that three Russian military aircraft have been downed. A spokesman from the Russian Defense Ministry is denying these assertions, INTERFAX reports.

Duma Deputy Yushenkov Reports Casualty Figures

LD2912141594 Moscow NTV in Russian 2115 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to receive information on the Chechen events from an alternative source, our film crew visited [Duma Defense Committee Chairman] Sergey Yushenkov, who is always in touch with Groznyy.

[Begin Yushenkov recording] It is hard to assess the situation now in real terms because, unfortunately, there is no information provided by Russian officialdom. Alternatively, this information is, in my view, one-sided. [telephone rings, Yushenkov answers]

There is an NTV crew now here. I would ask you, if possible, to give me an update over the phone. [video shows Yushenkov taking notes]

Urus-Martan bombed: eight killed and 16 wounded.

A commission headed by Makhmud Bagalov, a deputy of the Chechen parliament, has counted—from 10 to 23 December—up to 2,000 killed on the Chechen side, of whom there are 310 soldiers; 824 killed on the Russian side and over 1,200 wounded; and 182 units of armor, 14 helicopters, and seven aircraft are destroyed. [end recording]

FCS Official Notes 'Autonomous' Gunmen

MM2912171694 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Dec 94 First Edition p 2

[Untitled report from RIA-NOVOSTI column, from "Chechnya. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Special Issue" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Certain groups of gunmen in Chechnya are not subordinate to Dudayev and are operating autonomously, according to FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] Public Relations Center chief Mikhaylov. "A number of gangster groups in Chechnya are not subordinate to Dudayev, but are operating under autonomous control," Aleksandr Mikhaylov, chief of the FCS Public Relations Center, said. "Today we are dealing not only with Dudayev, but with the institution of field commanders, like in Afghanistan," he pointed out. In Mikhaylov's view, "this will create great complexities in the disarmament process."

Service Creates Chechnya Unit

LD2912174194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Dec 29 (Interfax)—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) created a territorial department for work in Chechnya, FCS Director Sergey Stepashin told a briefing in Mozdok Thursday. He said Colonel Grigoriy Khopershkov will head the new department. Among other goals set before the FCS, Stepashin highlighted revealing depots of arms and members of criminal groups. A field investigating group was composed of interior and counterintelligence officers to start working in Groznyy next month.

Journalists 'Disregard' Law in Chechnya

LD2912144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1312 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The Public Relations Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation has released a statement on the activity of journalists on the territory of the Chechen Republic. The statement, received at ITAR-TASS today, says:

"The events taking place in the Chechen Republic and the activity of the Ministry of Defense and the internal troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] in the region are the object of entirely understandable interest on the part of representatives of the mass media, including foreign ones.

"Considering all the complexity of the situation which has taken shape, the Public Relations Center of the Russian MVD sent letters already on 16 December to V.Bogdanov, chairman of the Russian Union of Journalists, and to A.Simonov, chairman of the Foundation for the Protection of Glasnost, proposing the emergency drafting of a set of joint measures to ensure the effective and safe work of journalists in the said region.

"Officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Public Relations Center of the Russian MVD are taking every measure possible to give journalists timely and objective information and to ensure their personal safety. But we find it difficult to understand the flagrant disregard for Russian legislation being displayed by

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correspondents of a number of publications, news agencies, television and radio companies.

"Moreover, not infrequently, journalists, in breach of the established procedure and placing their lives in danger, try by every means—including the use of vehicles belonging to the local population without registration numbers—to penetrate through battle lines onto the territory of Chechnya controlled by subunits of the interal troops of the Russian MVD, ask personnel to give them information classed as military and official secrets, and in their reports not infrequently convey information placing at risk not only the fulfillment of a mission but also the lives of servicemen and militiamen.

"Unfortunately, there are already cases of dissemination of obvious slander against members of the internal affairs bodies and internal forces servicemen.

"The Public Relations Center of the Russian MVD urgently reminds mass media workers of the need for strict observance of the laws of Russia and brings to their notice that Article 29 of the Law 'On the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation' reads: 'In the interests of ensuring the safety of servicemen and members of their families it is not permitted to disclose in the mass media information about the places of deployment (redeployment) of military units, or of service and residence of servicemen of the internal troops taking part in clashes with armed criminal gangs. Information on the service and combat activity of internal troops can be provided only with the permission of the commander of the military unit, the head of military training, or other institutions of the internal troops.' Failure to observe the law can cost and, as practice shows, not infrequently does cost the most precious thing—a person's life.

"The Public Relations Center of the MVD of the Russian Federation also brings to journalists' notice that accreditation cards issued by the Temporary Information Center attached to the Government of the Russian Federation are not justification for free movement and penetration into the territory of deployment of units and subunits of the internal troops and the places where they fulfill their service and combat missions.

"Our common task is to ensure the fullest and most objective information possible in combination with reliable guarantees for the safety of all those who are now on the territory of Chechnya."

Grachev, Yerin, Stepashin Give News Conference

LD2912201994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1840 GMT 29 Dec 94

[News conference given by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin, and Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, in Mozdok on 29 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Grachev] I would like to tell you about the progress in implementing the measures to encircle illegal armed formations, and about the participation of the interior troops and Defense Ministry units, as well as other special troops, in them.

As you know, the first stage of these measures has been completed. The troops have closed the circle around Groznyy. The actions of the bandit formations that are showing resistance are being stopped by the forces and means at our disposal.

We clearly understand the tasks we have been set: Legality, constitutional order, and stability on the territory of the Chechen Republic should be restored. The life of the civilian population should be normalized. The situation in the Chechen Republic can no longer remain one of the main internal threats to Russian security.

No matter how much some political forces are trying to distort the situation in Chechnya, to interpret the actions of the servicemen, and exert psychological pressure on the troops, at the present time our servicemen already clearly understand where they have been sent to and who they are fighting against.

They clearly understand that their actions are aimed at protecting state interests and removing the threat to the territorial integrity of Russia. They carry their military duty with honesty and great responsibility.

What, on the whole, we are trying to achieve? Obviously, the critical settlement of the situation and the political settlement of the conflict generally. But if we cannot achieve the desired results this way in the near future, we will be forced to use other methods. In other words, continue to use force. Although, I repeat again: The military too, are in support of the political settlement of this situation. But, as you may understand, this process is not making progress as yet, we are being shot at and the bloodshed continues. And you know that it was the Russian soldier's blood that was shed first, not the blood of Chechen civilians. These were only our response actions—the use of force, naturally, force against force—the army was drawn into the conflict. But I repeat, the army—all the servicemen and heads of the power structures are, first of all, striving to end the conflict at some stage, and end it by political means. We are still counting on the Chechen leaders' common sense. The armed resistance should be stopped. Otherwise, the ring of blockade will be tightened.

Regarding various reports of the storming of Groznyy. We are not talking here about the storming in its classical sense. What is storming? Let us discuss it. Here we are preparing to storm Groznyy. What is the storming of a city? This means the use of all the available forces and equipment that the country has. First of all, it means massive preparatory fire, with missiles, for several hours.

It is inflicting powerful bomb strikes on the whole town as if it were a real storming. In other words, so that 60

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percent of the defenders would be put out of action, and the remainder would be demoralized. Only then could the actions of ground troops and, first and foremost, its tank battalion, get under way. Of course, we will do nothing of the kind because there are a considerable number of the peaceful population in the town, including those who are taking part in the combat operations on fear of death. And, of course, in the classical sense, in the classical understanding of the word, there will, of course, not be a storming, and I ask you to understand this correctly.

Quite another matter is the fact that the advancement deep into the town from different directions will be continued if—and I repeat this once again—the Chechen leaders do not declare their surrender and hand over their weapons and equipment, and if they continue firing. It has reached the point where D-30 howitzer shells with dart- and needle-shaped elements, which are banned by an international convention, are being used. [a shell is passed to Grachev] Here you have a part of a shell—I will show you. Please pass it over. Here you can see the needle- and dart-shaped elements. There they are, this part has been taken out. You have probably seen it, they even take them as souvenirs. Well, this shell is prohibited, categorically prohibited according to all international laws. They are even resorting to this. So you can understand who is fighting here—the peaceful population or pure professionals.

I would like to say plainly that we do not wish any blood to be spilled or to see anyone killed. We once again urge that the armed resistance be brought to an end, and may the New Year become a year of reconciliation, and bring us all peace and tranquility.

During the second stage the Russian Army units, supporting the actions of the interior troops, will continue to confiscate arms and, if necessary, liquidate bandit formations in the town itself.

After clearing the town of bandit formations, the Armed Forces will withdraw from Chechnya stage by stage to the places of their permanent deployment. Evidently part of the forces—since it is a component part of the Federation, we had a tank regiment and a training motor rifle division in Chechnya in the past when it was part of the Soviet Union and later when it became part of Russia—using these military settlements, we may make a decision to leave some of the troops on Chechen territory, as a component part of the Russian Federation.

[Yerin] Pavel Sergeyevich, I would like to say a few words about the second stage of the operation since the interior troops, the interior bodies, will bear the main burden of the second stage. It is extremely important for us, after the Armed Forces units return to the places of their permanent deployment, to ensure the impossibility of returning to the situation Chechnya was led to by these so-called leaders during the last three years.

Therefore, we need to restore the normal infrastructure of the whole system of administrative management. Interior bodies should resume work in line with the Russian legislation. Public order should be guaranteed. The protection of all populated areas should be guaranteed.

We will always do such work with the help of the internal troops, the forces assigned—and you know that policemen from many regions of Russia are now here. The normal day-to-day work on protecting the law and order and maintaining public peace and quiet is now going on in many settlements that the Armed Forces and the internal troops have passed through and liberated from bandits.

Normal contacts with the civilian population are being maintained. Here too, we note one particular feature: We know that the so-called people's guard forces have weapons on their hands. People, in principle, are prepared to surrender these weapons voluntarily. But they are afraid to do so today because they are still not sure that Dudayev's regime has been completely finished, that Dudayev's bandit formations are already doomed to fail. They are not afraid of us, the Russian soldiers or policemen. They are afraid of the Dudayev's bands, afraid that they will again raid their peaceful villages, rob the people, take away their cattle, and so on. This is what I would like to stress.

What our not so far-sighted politicians are forgetting is that the success of this operation—and we are confident that it will be successful—will give assurance to many other regions of Russia that we will not let them get into a state in which Chechnya has found itself.

Probably no one in any Russian town wants armed bands walking the streets with automatic weapons and illegal formations with their own tanks. Incidentally, today the defense minister was told that several tanks belonging to Dudayev's forces were destroyed yesterday with 'on to Moscow,' neither more nor less, written on them.

[Grachev] Go and see for yourselves—I think it is in the area of the 76th Airborne Division. Two tanks were knocked out; they are standing there, and they have 'on to Moscow' written on them.

[Yerin] Unfortunately, we have certain leaders here who do not understand that if we do not solve the problem there it could arise anywhere in Russia. And we could have even greater damage to our statehood, to our people, than we have there.

So, the second stage will be very important. It will be aimed precisely at establishing peace both in the Chechen Republic and throughout Russian territory, bringing the criminals to book in accordance with Russian law, and enabling civilians to feel calm and live as people do anywhere else.

[Grachev] The question of whether or not the Armed Forces should be used in this conflict is constantly being whipped up. As a military man and as defense minister,

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I too, to a certain...[pauses] Not to a certain extent, I am opposed to the use of the Armed Forces in resolving an internal conflict. But there is a completely different aspect here. If this opposition were not armed with tanks, BM-21s [Grad multiple rocket launchers], D-30s [howitzers], radio-controlled minefields, mines of various makes, mortars, and other modern combat...

[Yerin, interrupting] Grads...

[Grachev, continuing] Grads—as I said, BM-21 Grads—and other modern combat equipment, I would oppose the participation of the Armed Forces, and try to stop it, and say so at every level.

But when the well-organized, well-trained opposition—not only the Chechens, but mercenaries from other states—are fighting against the internal troops, whose first duty is, according to law, to disarm and to liberate—when...

[Yerin, interrupting] Please, show us this Ukrainian cap, the one with the Bendera badge. [cap is shown to journalists]

[Grachev, continuing] When, in actual fact, the internal troops have only armored vehicles at their disposal with only KPVT heavy machine-guns and nothing else—of course, it will be a blasphemy to put our Russian boys against such powerful adversaries.

[Stepashin] The tasks that we tackle jointly with the Internal Affairs Ministry—and here we interact fully—are, first, to find the stores of weapons that have not yet been surrendered, second, to identify the individuals who, in one way or the other, took part, will take part, or will not take part in the bandit formations—including in the town of Groznyy. We have a full card index of practically all such people.

Together with the Procuracy General of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service we have today set up operational investigation group. The first detective officers have already begun their work here. I think they will begin work in Groznyy already in January. Besides, together with Pavel Sergeyevich's and Viktor Fedorovich's agents, we are gathering intelligence on all the mountain passes and bases in the south that Dudayev has been setting up and continues to do so. So, Pavel Sergeyevich, winter conditions permitting, we hope to work there according to the full schedule and I think the Moscow peacemakers will not bother our defense minister.

[Grachev] Well, I will see it then.

[Unidentified correspondent] Viktor Fedorovich?

[Yerin] Yes.

[Correspondent] How realistic will it be to wage a partisan war? There is much talk about this at present by Dudayev's supporters.

[Yerin] Well, I believe that we should treat this possibility most seriously. Undoubtedly there will be such groups and we are aware of the intention of Dudayev and his forces to organize a so- called partisan war. However, I am convinced that those attempts will stopped in no time at all, and that there will no need to talk of any large-scale partisan war. But this will also depend to a great extent on our actions, on the actions of the interior troops, on the actions of the internal affairs bodies, and on the support that we will be given by the subunits of the Defense Ministry well, which we simply do not have in our structures, say, the Air Force will support our efforts and perhaps where needed artillery support will also be given.

[Stepashin] As regards mercenaries, where do they come from? Most of them come from Afghanistan—they are Mojahedin. They are putting up the most fierce resistance and they are fighting fairly professionally. According to our estimates, 60-70 men are these very same Bendera followers or differently named Ukrainian Liberation Army members, representatives of the Western Ukraine. You know that they did not even hide that they went to Chechnya. There are none from Abkhazia, even though there was much talk about this—they did not arrive here, you know that Ardzinba has now sharply changed his stance. There is a large number from the Baltic republics, including moreover, women snipers. I know that Interior Ministry troops have killed two. Unfortunately, there also is a small number of Russians. That is probably the greater part of the mercenaries. There are also mercenaries from Tajikistan—representatives of the so-called Tajik opposition, and also from Jordan. You know that we have shown you this on screen recently. One should bear in mind that these mercenaries are not new arrivals—the border is now completely closed. Many of them—these very Jordanians arrived here as far back as three years ago.

When Dudayev claims, and when peacemakers in Moscow claim that the Chechen people are fighting—the Chechen people are not fighting. Most of those fighting are mercenaries who are fighting for...[pauses] Their salary is up to $800 a day.

For two years Dudayev—when Yegor Timurovich Gaydar was the prime minister, money was sent to the Chechen Republic not to pay pensions and not to provide for the vital needs. Dudayev has destroyed the whole socioeconomic infrastructure, essentially it was a real Pol Pot regime. The money was spent on armaments instead, sums were transferred to accounts in Jordan and Turkey. Also, the money was used for personal enrichment. It is this money that is killing our servicemen now.

[Correspondent] Sergey Vladimirovich, excuse me, but why did we tolerate the situation for so long, for three years, and why are we going there now when they have gathered their strength?

[Stepashin] We did not tolerate it for a long time. By the way, you know how difficult it was to make this decision

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and what effort it cost the defense minister, the interior minister, and some others to adopt the decision to use force.

There was hope and, as you know, efforts were made to resolve the problem from the inside here, using the opposition.

[Yerin, interrupting] All this was well explained in the address by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. In my view, in it he demonstrated very graphically the whole process of the attempts made to resolve the problem by peace means.

[Stepashin] They have been exhausted, therefore, there was only one option left, there was no other way.

[Grachev] Do you know what field commanders have told me? Incidentally, I am gathering them together now. As long as a week ago they told me: Comrade minister, if you command us to leave now, we will not carry out your order. We realize now whom we have been meeting here. Although at the beginning, it is true, there were some doubts in the 19th Division, which was advancing from the south—you will recall this—and even some commanders of the 76th Airborne Division had doubts, but only until the first foreigners were killed when they could clearly see whom they were fighting against. They said—perhaps it was a joke, of course—if you give us such an order, we will not carry it out. Of course, they could not ignore an order, no matter what order I may give. There could be no such thing in the army.

[Yerin, interrupting] But the mood of the people...

[Grachev] Yes, the mood of people shows that this business needs to be carried through right to the end.

Grachev on Groznyy Operations, Praises Defense

LD2912173794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Dec 29 (Interfax)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has said that the Russian military operation around Groznyy was not an assault "in the classic sense of the word—using all forces and resources available to the country and preliminary artillery and missile preparation for several hours."

"We will undertake nothing of the kind as there are civilians in the city. However, the movement inside the city will continue to confiscate arms and liquidate criminal groups," he told a briefing in Mozdok Thursday.

According to Grachev, after Groznyy is cleared "from criminal groups, the troops will return to their permanent locations." However, some Russian units may be left where a tank regiment and a training infantry division were earlier stationed, he added.

Grachev remarked that in principle he was against involving the army in internal conflicts, but in this case interior troops would not have managed Dudayev's tanks, armored personnel carriers and other equipment.

Grachev highly praised the organization of defense by Dudayev's formations pointing out that "skilled specialists" fought on his side, referring to Afghan, Pakistani and other mercenaries who have enormous war experience. Grachev showed journalists the peak-cap of a killed Ukrainian mercenary with a trident, the symbol of Ukraine's independence.

Grachev said journalists will be welcomed in army and interior units as of today. They will be allowed to talk "to any soldier, sergeant, officer, they will be able to prove the morale and psychological state of our troops."

Yeltsin Sets up Constitutional Rights Body

LD3012092794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0752 GMT 30 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict on the setting up a provisional supervisory commission to observe constitutional rights and freedoms during the process of restoring constitutional legality on the territory of the Chechen Republic. The edict stipulates that the commission has the right to receive information which is required for the fulfillment of its task to restore constitutional legality on the territory of Chechnya from the leaders of the operation. The commission may supervize—following notification of the command of the federal armed formations—the progress of the fulfillment of their tasks, and is instructed to make representations about violations of the rights and freedoms of citizens, and instances which obstruct the president of the Russian Federation, as well as the heads of corresponding federal bodies of executive power, in their work.

Duma Deputy Speaker Valentin Kovalev has been appointed chairman of the commission, which includes representatives of the presidential administration of both chambers of the Federal Assembly. The commission, which numbers 18, also includes Sergey Kovalev, Russian human rights representative, in the capacity of deputy chairman. Ramazan Abdulatipov, the deputy speaker of the Federation Council, has been appointed the other deputy chairman.

Russian POW Gives Interview

LD3012115694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0530 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] You are listening to Moscow Echo Radio. It is 0830 [0530 GMT] in Moscow. There are still some Russian servicemen being held prisoner in Groznyy.

Vladimir Varfolomeyev tonight made contact with one of the prisoners. He was introduced as Aleksey, from Rostov Oblast, and this is what he said.

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[Begin recording] [Aleksey] I am a native of Kirov Oblast. I now live in Rostov Oblast.

[Varfolomeyev] You have been in Groznyy since 26 November?

[Aleksey] December.

[Varfolomeyev] 26 December?

[Aleksey] Yes, yes—December.

[Varfolomeyev] So where did the capture take place?

[Aleksey] The capture took place in the settlement of Ushkoy-Martan. We were travelling along the Baku highway, and we got lost. It was a 143-20 Ural [truck]—it's a station for radio intelligence-gathering. [sentence as heard]

[Varfolomeyev] So how did you find yourself in the land of the Chechens?

[Aleksey] We drove out of Vladikavkaz on the 26th. Our mission was to deliver letters and boots to soldiers and [words indistinct] from Machkina station, which is in a colony, a seconded colony [prikomandirovannaya kolonia], near Groznyy. We made the delivery and we started back, and then we got lost. We ended up in the settlement of Ushkoy-Martan.

[Varfolomeyev] And you had an escort, of course.

[Aleksey] We had an escort from Nazran for about 30 km. Two armored personnel carriers escorted us. You are not allowed to take out one vehicle on its own. You can only travel in a convoy. Well, we had the two vehicles with us. They escorted us for 30 km, and then we continued on our own.

[Varfolomeyev] And on the way back you had none?

[Aleksey] Nobody on the way back.

[Varfolomeyev] What happened after your vehicle, evidently, was surrounded by Chechen irregulars?

[Aleksey] We were taken—we were stopped by a Zhiguli car of the local militia. One of them climbed into the cabin, pulled out a pistol, and told us to hand over our weapons. We drove to the local militia station.

[Varfolomeyev] Did you have weapons on you?

[Aleksey] Yes, we did. Two AK-74 assault rifles. That's 5-45. One pistol. Five magazines.

[Varfolomeyev] How many of you were there?

[Aleksey] Two. My major—the head of staff of the battalion—and myuself.

[Varfolomeyev] Tell me, Aleksey. Clearly you had taken precautions. Why did you not put up resistance?

[Aleksey] Why did I not put up any resistance? Well, first, I didn't go there to fight. If I had meant to fight then maybe I would have done things differently. But I wasn't set on fighting. And then, too, there was the major. A major. I looked to the major to see how he would act. After all, he had more experience than I had, and he must have known what to do in the situation.

[Varfolomeyev] So what happened after you were disarmed by the Chechen militia?

[Aleksey] I was brought to the militia station, where the major was the main center of attention. I was made to sit down. They gave me a cigarette and a good meal. I was told that we would be exchanged for hostages. They said that we would live, and that we'd be going home again. We believed them, of course. After all, the Chechen people aren't these bandit formations they talk about. Then they took us to Groznyy. The major was blindfolded. He travelled in front. I followed them in the Ural. So. There was a very thick fog. No visibility at all. We reached Groznyy, and then we found ourselves in the presidential palace, for interrogation. First they interrogated the major, then me.

[Varfolomeyev] What were you asked?

[Aleksey] Where our people were located. I'm not really happy to talk about this here. So I'll refrain.

[Varfolomeyev] OK, we'll go on to something else. How are you being looked after now?

[Aleksey] To be honest, we are receiving even better treatment than the soldiers defending Groznyy. They feed us mutton and keep us warm. Our conditions are even better than those of the soldiers.

[Varfolomeyev] Aleksey, how many people are being held in Groznyy now, along with you?

[Aleksey] Prisoners?

[Varfolomeyev] Yes.

[Aleksey] At present, where we are—in the cellar, that's the only place I know—there are 19 people: Six officers and 13 soldiers. [Figures as heard] One soldier is working as a cook in the presidential palace. Two are working somewhere. Nobody knows about them. They're working somewhere, probably.

[Varfolomeyev] Aleksey, are there any wounded among you?

[Aleksey] There are no wounded.

[Varfolomeyev] All are alive and healthy.

[Aleksey] Everyone is alive and healthy. They are treating us normally.

[Varfolomeyev] What do you think, Aleksey? How do you think will this end? Even if we do not look at the global scale of this war, how will your stay in Groznyy end?

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[Aleksey] It is difficult for me to say. I think, at any rate I hope, that they will release us. For all that, the politicians at the top will come to an agreement, resolve all this by peaceful means, withdraw the Russian troops, and then they will release us.

[Varfolomeyev] Aleksey, I very much hope for that—that they will release you, that you can return home safely.

[Aleksey] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Officials Detain, Charge Armed Jordanians

LD3012102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The procuracy general of the Russian Federation has instituted proceedings against M.K. al-Dagestani and A. Abdallakh, citizens of Jordan, on charges of illegal possession of arms which carries a penalty in accordance with Article 218 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code. They were detained at the checkpoint on the Dolinskoye-Kerla-Yurt highway in the Chechen republic carrying an automatic weapon, ammunition, and grenades. The information and public relations center at the Russian Federation procuracy general reported this today.

The investigation committee of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs is instructed to carry out an investigation of the case. The Russian procuracy general is supervising the investigation.

Air Raids Cause Oil Tank Fire in Groznyy

LD3012121994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Dec 30 (Interfax)—The Chechen Foreign Ministry demanded immediate cessation of air bombardment of the Chechen capital and its environs. A ministry official told Interfax that the bombardment had been continuing for a second week.

A ministry statement says that as a result of air raids the oil storage in Chechnya's largest Aslanbek Sharipov refinery within the city limits was set on fire. A storage of 5000 tonnes of ammonia is situated nearby. "If it catches fire, an ecological disaster will hit the entire North Caucasus," a ministry official said.

The Russian military spokesmen had earlier denied Groznyy allegations that the air raids hit residential areas. According to them, only the military hardware and personnel of "illegal militias" is targeted.

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International Affairs

Marchuk Notes Russian Ties To Remain 'Priority'

LD2912144594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 29 Dec—"Russian-Ukrainian relations in all spheres—including family, general state and general political—were and remain a priority for Ukraine both historically and at the present time," Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, said at a briefing dedicated to the negotiating process with Russia.

Marchuk informed those present about the general state of interstate relations and paid considerable attention to the economic sphere.

I will remind you that Ukraine's debt to the Russian Federation, in particular to "Roskontrakt" [as received] is $197 million, $1.5 billion to "Gazprom," and $2.7 million for state credits for 1992-1993.

While understanding our problems, the Russian side is raising the issue of defining mechanisms for settling and servicing our debts. "I am convinced that relations between Ukraine and Russia will become even more important to us. The regulation of Ukrainian- Russian relations is a priority in the foreign policy conducted by the president," Marchuk stressed. However, he stressed that it would become difficult for us to work with Russian structures if economic reforms were delayed.

While informing journalists about the state of the legislative base of our relations, Marchuk said, in particular, that 14 interstate treaties were ready to be signed at present. In particular, these were agreements on cooperation between border oblasts, the basic principles for creating the Financial Industrial Group, restructuring Ukraine's debts, avoiding double taxation, and so on. Another seven agreements were in various stages of readiness. With regard to the treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership, according to Marchuk, only some provisions of Article 4 of the document remained to be agreed on.

Touching on the issue of the division of the Black Sea Fleet, Marchuk noted that "the problems of the Black Sea Fleet remained the most complex ones in Ukrainian-Russian relations." However, in the first deputy prime minister's view, there was some progress, particularly on attitudes toward leasing.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Deputy Finance Minister Borys Sobolev participated in the news conference.

Ministry Denies BSF Marines Sent to Chechnya

LD2912182194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry has denied media reports about the dispatch of some subunits of the Sevastopol-based Black Sea Fleet [BSF] marine brigade to Chechnya. It stresses that the unit's personnel remains today at its permanent base of deployment and is working on planned combat training assignments. The Defense Ministry possess up-to-date information on all ships, units, and subunits of the Black Sea Fleet which, under existing bilateral agreements, are subordinated to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia. The press service also notes that commanders of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Black Sea Fleet exchanged regular information on the situation in the Black Sea region and in Chechnya.

Deputies Call for UN Session on Chechnya

LD2912183094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec 29 (Interfax-Ukraine)—A group of Ukrainian deputies has proposed "convoking a special session of the UN General Assembly to consider an end to bloodshed in Chechnya and send international observers there." A total of 105 deputies signed a relevant address to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali Thursday.

The authors of the address expressed their deep concern over the events in Chechnya. In their opinion, "the military action in this republic was designed against a people willing to exercise its natural right to self-determination and statehood."

"The events in the North Caucasus not only destabilize the situation in that region, but may also lead to dangerous consequences for international security," the Ukrainian deputies pointed out.

Among deputies who signed the address were the leader of the Communist faction, Petro Symonenko, chairman of the parliamentary Commission for Defense and State Security, Vladimir Mukhin, chairman of the Commission for International Affairs, Borys Oliynyk, and Deputy Anton Butiyko who until recently headed the presidential Foreign Policy Service.

National Affairs

Udovenko Upbeat on 1994 Foreign Policy

LD3012150394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1315 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"This year has marked a breakthrough in Ukraine's foreign policy," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told a news conference today. "Its main result is our Foreign Ministry's higher profile in every sphere of activity, and consequently a higher status." He noted that all the leading Western countries already regard Ukraine as an independent state and conduct dialogue with Ukraine on an equal footing.

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Another achievement of the Ministry, according to Mr. Udovenko, is the untangling of political and economic relations with Russia. This is no longer the focus of tension, he said. Already 21 documents have been signed and 20 more are in the pipeline in preparation for President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine in January 1995. A new round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations to finalize the bilateral friendship treaty has been scheduled for 6 January 1995.

The protection of Ukraine's political and economic interests in the world remains a priority in 1995, the minister said. "We must regain lost markets and conquer new ones, both in the CIS and in the West." Mr. Udovenko also stressed the urgent need for a new Ukrainian Constitution, one which would enable the country to join the Council of Europe. This would include Ukraine in the European legal framework so that every citizen of our country could appeal to the European Court in case his human rights were violated by the state.

Speaking of problems which have prevented the Foreign Ministry from working to its full capacity, Mr. Udovenko cited a lack of highly qualified personnel and a high staff turnover due to low salaries. "We cannot solve this problem without a diplomatic academy which would train top-rate specialists," he said.

International Group Discusses Chechnya

AU2912150894 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 24 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by RUKH-PRESS correspondent Taras Zakharuk: "An International Commission Has Assembled in Kiev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An international commission of parliamentarians held a constituent conference in Kiev on maintaining human rights in the zone of the Russian-Chechen conflict. Representatives of parliaments of the Kazakhstan Republic, Lithuania, Ukraine, the Chechen Republic, and Estonia took part in the work of the conference. Yuriy Orobets, Ukraine's people's deputy, was elected as head of the International Commission for Maintaining Human Rights in the Zone of the Russian-Chechen Conflict.

The participants in the conference decided that the main tasks of the international commission will consist in helping to stop the combat actions, withdraw troops, and start negotiations without any preliminary conditions, in coordinating efforts by parliaments on control over the maintenance of human rights in the zone of the Russian-Chechen conflict, and also in fulfilling intermediary and peacekeeping missions.

On the same day, an international "round table" was held: "Human Rights in the Post-Communist World in the Light of the Chechen Crisis." Its participants analyzed the development of the situation and arrived at the conclusion that mass violations of human rights take place on the territory of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria as a result of military actions. In this connection, the "round table" appealed to the Russian leadership to stop immediately military actions, withdraw troops from the territory of the Chechen Republic, and start negotiations without any preliminary conditions. The participants in the "round table" also proposed that representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent be admitted to the zone of the Russian-Chechen conflict for rendering assistance to the civilian population.

Crimeans Proclaim Solidarity with Chechens

LD3012102194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—In a statement released on 29 December, the Crimean Tatar People's State Assembly proclaimed its full solidarity with the Chechen people's struggle for national liberation. The assembly condemned the "Russian aggression—the worst international crime." The statement says that the Majlis would use every means to provide support and aid for the people of Chechnya. The assembly urged all national democratic movements and organizations to use all their resources and influence to insist on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya.

The State Assembly, which approved the statement, also formed a central electoral commission to prepare for the third assembly of the Crimean-Tatar people, to be held in the summer of 1995.

Respublika Leader Cites 'Political' Accidents

WS3012122894 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0150 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sevastopol, Dec. 28—Members of the Crimean Parliament faction Respublika, Borys Kizilov and Vadym Mordashev were attacked and beaten Dec. 23 and Dec. 27, respectively, Respublika press center officials reported Wednesday.

Respublika spokesmen believe both accidents had clear political motivations. Respublika leader Vladimir Klychnikov said he suspects some deputies of Crimean Parliament bear responsibility for the attacks.

Respublika believes both cases should be regarded as terrorism against parliamentary deputies and should be investigated not by law enforcement bodies but by the Security Service of Ukraine.

UNA-UNSO Registers as Official Party

LD2912180894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Justice Minister Vasyl Onopenko today handed a certificate of party registration to Viktor Melnyk, the chairman of secretariat of the

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Ukrainian National Assembly - Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNA-UNSO]. The document recognizes the Ukrainian National Assembly as a political party.

"This is no mistake," Mr. Onopenko said as he handed the certificate. "It is a routine procedure, since the UNA founding documents do not contain a single word against Ukraine's state system, Constitution, or active legislation. We are talking about democracy, therefore, there should be room for different views and opinions," he said.

Mr. Melnyk thanked the Justice Ministry for "finding courage to register the UNA as a party despite opposition, particularly from the Security Service of Ukraine."

UNA-UNSO Deputy Leader Dmytro Korchynskyy told UNIAN that the legal status will facilitate UNA activities. This would affect, above all, its participation in elections and legal protection for its members from persecution by the state. He revealed that the UNA had 10,000 members, issued seven publications, and was the most mobile organization in Ukraine.

Poll Shows 44 Percent Favor New Constitution

LD2912215094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Democratic Initiatives Center, 44 percent of Kiev citizens polled in December believe it is necessary to adopt a new constitution in Ukraine. Only 17 percent agreed to make do with the law on power passed recently in the first reading. In the same survey, the Ukrainian president received a much bigger confidence vote than the Supreme Council. Most of those polled favored a legislative division of power between the president, the legislative, the executive, and the judicial structures.

Kuchma Restores Television Broadcasting

LD2912205694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1940 GMT 29 GMT 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 29 Dec—The president issued a decree cancelling the Cabinet of Ministers directive No. 943 of 26 December 1994 as one which violates the Law of Ukraine on Television and Radio. The cabinet directive restricted television airtime to 1700 - 0000 GMT on weekdays, keeping a full schedule on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The restrictions applied to all state and private television companies and channels.

The president based his ruling on Clause C of Article 5 in the Law of Ukraine of Television and Radio, under which the issue of broadcasting licences and allocation of airtime was the prerogative of the National Broadcasting Council.

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Belarus

Hryb Sees Russian Unification as Unconstitutional

LD2912172594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliamentary Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb said neither he nor the parliament presidium had been asked to approve a recent proposal to convene a joint session of the Belarusian parliament and the Russian parliament's lower house to discuss unification between Belarus and Russia. The proposal came from the State Duma, Russia's lower house, which suggested convening such a session next March.

"Unification between Belarus and Russia would contradict our constitution," Hryb told Interfax in Kiev, where he led a parliamentary delegation on an official visit. "I see this as an initiative of some separate group of members of the Russian State Duma."

But he said the matter could be put on the Belarusian parliament's agenda if a group of its members proposed this.

Moscow "does not always" base its relations with Minsk on the equality principle, Hryb complained.

Unification was also the subject of an international congress in Moscow, which was held several days ago and decided to set up grassroots action committees to collect signatures under petitions to call referendums in Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine on the reunification of those countries.

"Only immediate steps to reintegrate the republics, bringing them together into an economic, political and defense union, would enable each of them to surmount the total and deep crisis," the head of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Arkadiy Volskiy, told the forum, whose motto was "Towards reintegration through consensus."

He said the reintegration of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan should go through four stages: creating an open alliance of the four post-Soviet states; lifting all restrictions on the movement of goods, capital and labor between them; making the four countries' laws as similar as possible, and forming supranational administrative bodies. "We must appeal to the peoples of the republics and via referendums force their governments to start concrete reintegration processes," Volskiy said in an interview with Interfax. "I don't have the slightest doubt that the people would accept the idea of unification referendums."

However, another congress delegate, Nikolay Gonchar, a member of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament, told Interfax: "At this point we can only talk of an economic union. As for a political union, all the forces who hold power in the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States would rise up against that and, as far as a defense union goes, some forces in the West as well would be against it."

Further on Unification Issue, Elections

LD2912203894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Dec 29 (Interfax-West)—Chairman of Belarus' Supreme Soviet Myacheslaw Hryb declared that he had not received any official proposal from the Russian State Duma to hold a joint sitting of Russia's lower chamber and Belarus' parliament which is expected to consider an issue on re-unification of Belarus and Russia. At a press conference on Thursday in Minsk Hryb reported that there is no sense to discuss this issue because it contradicts to the republic's Constitution.

Belarus' Basic Law proclaims that Belarus is an independent state, Hryb reminded. The deputies have no right to change the Constitution half a year before the parliament lays down its authorities.

Elections of a new composition of the Belarusian parliament are scheduled for May 14, 1995.

On December 23 Russia's State Duma adopted a decision to propose to the Belarusian parliament to hold a joint sitting to consider the issue on Russia's and Belarus' reunification.

"I would not like to search for a new Viskuli on a map (a populated center in Belaya Vezha, Belarus' south-west where heads of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, and Stanislav Shushkevich [as received] signed a treaty on creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States—Interfax)," Hryb said.

He voiced his comments on the televised address of the republic's President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in which Lukashenka accused parliamentarians of drunkenness and of violation of the Constitution.

Hryb believes that as far as taking alcoholic beverages by the parliamentarians is concerned, this fact probably could take place but the president should have appropriate documents to prove this.

In an opposite case deputies will be forced to start parliamentary sittings after a medical examination by a physician to avoid any further accusations against them, Hryb said.

Hryb believes that the president's accusations concerning violation of the Constitution are also ungrounded. As it is known, the deputies appointed the

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time of the parliamentary elections, May 14, 1995, which exceeds the time when their powers expire almost by two months.

Clarifying the situation Hryb reported that in accordance with the law it is necessary to count the term of the parliament's powers not from the day of elections but from the first sitting of the Supreme Soviet which the present composition of the parliament held on May 17, 1991.

Moldova

Parliament Sets Local Elections Date: 16 Apr 95

AU2912183294 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2040 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, INFOTAG, 28/12/1994—The long-spoken elections to local power bodies shall be held on April 16, 1995, the Moldovan Parliament decided Tuesday night. They shall be conducted on multi-party basis, and in conformity with the new election law.

Both the parliamentary and out-of-parliament opposition strongly criticized this law, which they think creates unequal conditions for participants in the political struggle.

Some opposition forces are considering a possibility of boycotting the elections, for they believe the ruling Agrarian Democratic Party has already pre-determined their results by passing such an unfair law.

The opposition is particularly discontented that local bosses shall be appointed by Chisinau, and the government is going to preserve its total power even in those areas where the victory may be won by other political forces.

The parliament has also passed a decree on celebrating the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism, and approved expenditures to be allocated for the festivities.

Thus, the parliament has concluded its autumn/winter session. The spring/summer session is to be opened in early February.

Gagauzians Hail Special Status, Raise Flag

LD2912202094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Komrat, Dec 29 (Interfax)—The decree on special legal status of Gagauzia adopted by the Moldovan parliament last week "has put an end to the four-year confrontation between Komrat and Kishinev [Chisinau], Stepan Topal, president of the non-recognized Gagauz republic, declared on Thursday in Komrat.

Speaking at the session of Gagauzia's Supreme Soviet he underlined that the decree "is the victory of not only the Gagauz but of the Moldovan people."

Deputy Chairman of the Moldovan parliament Nikolay Andronik handed Moldova's flag and the phonogram of the Moldovan state hymn at the session of Gagauzia's administration. The session was concluded under the sounds of the hymn and the ceremony of the flag's hoisting.

The session pointed out that the parallel utilization of state symbols was the first step on the way to the implementation of the decree adopted by the Moldovan parliament a week ago.

It was decided that the parliament of the Gagauzian republic would retain its powers until the first sitting of Gagauzia's future Popular Assembly (that is, by next spring). By that moment the deputies corps will officially lay down its authorities and announce about disbandment of all bodies of the non-recognized Gagauzian republic after creation of Gagauz Eri (Gagauzian land—a territorial entity within Moldova) and Gagauzia's self-rule bodies.

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Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Looks for Balance Between North, South

LD2912172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In order to put an end to "the artificially created problem" between Kyrgyzstan's North and South it is necessary to conduct "a staff rotation of the executive power bodies," President Askar Akayev declared addressing a session of the regional council in the Osh region. In his opinion, this will help "to create a balance" between two regions of the republic.

Appointment of a new head of the Osh regional administration was the major issue on the session's agenda because its previous leader, Abdyganiy Erkebayev was registered as a deputy to Kyrgyzstan's new parliament and in accordance with the legislature he has laid down his authorities.

The session confirmed the president-proposed candidacy of Dzhanysh Rustenbekov who has been state secretary of the Kyrgyz republic and leader of the presidential administration until now. IF [INTERFAX] note: Dzhanysh Rustenbekov was born in Kyrgyzstan's northern region. This is the first example when a person springing from the country's another region has become head of the regional administration in the south of the country.

In an interview with Interfax a source close to Akayev characterized these staff initiatives of the president as "a resolute political move" aimed at the integration of the northern and southern regions of the republic. The expert called Rustenbekov "a state official who is able to prevent the south's separatist moods." In his words, a tendency "towards over-emphasizing of local problems" was noticed in the previous leadership of the Osh region.

The expert also believes that Rustenbekov "has played the role of an organizer in implementing many resolute moves of the president in the inner political life of the country."

According to the same source, a representative of the south will be appointed a new head of the presidential administration in the frameworks of the president's task aimed "at rotation of leaders in Kyrgyzstan's regions."

Edicts on New Head of Osh Region, Removal From Post

LD2912185194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1400 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Edict by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic:

Dzhanysh Sultankulovich Rustenbekov is relieved of his post of state secretary and the head of the presidential administration and appointed head of the Osh region state administration.

President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, Government House, Bishkek, 28 December 1994.

Edict by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic:

Abdygany Erkebayev is relieved of his post of head of the Osh region state administration.

President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, Government House, Bishkek, 28 December 1994.

Tajikistan

People's Party Chairman on Consolidation With Other Parties

LD2912173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "A democratic environment has been created in Tajikistan for nominating candidates to the new parliament," said Abdumajid Dostiyev, chairman of the People's Party of Tajikistan and first deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet. (IF [INTERFAX] Note: The elections are scheduled for February 26, 1995. The nomination of candidates officially began on December 28).

Speaking at a news conference Dostiyev rejected rumors that the lists of candidates, notably of his party, were sent from the ruling bodies of the parties. He said that if this proved true, those guilty of such practices would be severely punished.

Dostiyev said that his party would take an active part in the elections. He said it would support anybody who proved worthy of being a people's deputy. Dostiyev emphasized that the chief objective of his party at this stage was to avoid confrontation. IF Note: The People's Party of Tajikistan was registered in the Justice Ministry on December 15. Its membership exceeds 2000 today and, according to the party leaders, hundreds have expressed their desire to join the party.

In Dostiyev's words, his party is prepared for consolidation with all parties and movements in Tajikistan, "especially the Communist Party," but "only to an extent" because "the People's Party has its own goals and objectives."

Dostiyev said that the political position of his party in revival of the republic would be based on the findings of ideologists and scientists in all fields of economics rather than on amateurism. He said that the party did not have class enemies but it would ruthlessly fight crime, tribalism and nationalism.

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Uzbekistan

Karimov, UN Representative Discuss Parliamentary Elections

LD2912173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Islam Karimov and the permanent representative of the United Nations in Uzbekistan Chalid Malik discussed Thursday the results of the parliamentary elections held last Sunday.

According to the presidential press service, the head of state told Malik about the preliminary returns of the elections attended by over 90 percent of the 11 million voters.

The UN official singled out the high standard of organizing the elections. In Malik's opinion multi-party elections are an indication of the country's advancement along the road of democratic reforms.

He stressed that many democratic countries condition their relations with Uzbekistan by the success of democratic reforms.

The two officially registered parties had the right to nominate candidates: the ruling People's Democratic Party which is described as the heir of Communists and Fatherland's Progress party formed by intellectuals and businessmen. Regional councils and the Tashkent city council also had the right to nominate candidates.

According to preliminary results, the People's Democratic Party of President Karimov won the majority of seats.

Report on Results of Supreme Council Elections

LD2912122494 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1000 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We received some information just now from the Central Election Commission on elections to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We will tell you about it:

There were a total of 11,250,461 people on the electoral roll. On 25 December, 10,528,651 people, or 93.6 percent of the electorate, participated in the vote. In the city of Tashkent, 86 percent of the electorate, in Navoi Region 86.9 percent of the electorate, and in Tashkent Region 89.5 percent of the electorate participated. The largest proportion of the electorate voted in the Khorezm, Kashkadarya, and Namangan regions: 96.9 and 97.2 percent. [sentence as heard] A total of 205 people were elected as deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In keeping with Article 43 of the law on elections, there will be repeat ballots in 39 constituencies where none of the three candidates was elected. Repeat voting will take place at six constituencies where neither of the two candidates gained a sufficient number of votes.

Election Turnout by Region

LD2912193294 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1600 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 25 December 1994, elections took place to the Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Uzbekistan in line with the decree of the 16th session of the republic's Supreme Council. In order to organize and conduct the elections, 250 constituency Election Commissions and 7,202 polling station Election Commissions were created. [passage omitted]

There were 139 constituencies where three candidates stood for election, 106 constituencies where two candidates stood, and five constituencies that had one candidate each. There were a total of 11,250,461 people registered on the electoral roll; 10,328,651 people, or 93.6 percent of the electorate, took part in the election.

The percentages of the electorate who cast their vote were as follows:

City or Region	Percent of the Electorate
Tashkent City:	86.2
Andizhan Region:	96
Bukhara Region:	94.6
Dzhizak Region:	95.2
Navoi Region:	86.9
Namangan Region:	97.2
Samarkand Region:	93.8
Syrdarya Region:	95
Surkhandarya Region:	94.4
Tashkent Region:	89.5
Ferghana Region:	94.9
Khorezm Region:	96.9
Kashkadarya Region:	96.9
Republic of Karakalpakistan:	96

[Passage omitted] On election day 68 observers from about 30 countries, international organizations, and movements, as well as 10 representatives from the REUTER and INTERFAX agencies, the BBC, the Ostankino Television Company, LIBERATION, and the NEUE ZUERICHE ZEITUNG newspaper observed the election process during the vote and the count at polling stations. All of them noted that the process of elections was organized to a high standard and confirmed that the elections were conducted in line with the requirements of the Law on Elections.

Information on the list of deputies elected to the Uzbek Supreme Assembly and the preliminary results of the elections will be reported in the next few days.

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Armenia

President's Decree Suspending ARF Activity Reported

NC2912184394 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1615 GMT 29 Dec 94

["Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's Decree on Temporary Suspension of Activity of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Public-Political Organization"—radio headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Considering that a secret intelligence service with a military structure and ramified network has been established and operating within the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] public-political organization;

That this service has been engaged in military and economic intelligence work in Armenia relating to the Republic's national security;

That it has participated in conceiving and using the international narcotics business route between Beirut and Yerevan and Moscow and other cities;

That it has established unlawful economic structures and has engaged in racketeering;

That it has formed militia groups through which it has carried out political murders now brought to light and has planned a number of other acts of terror;

That it has used the legal structures of the ARF and its sister organizations Hamazgayin [Pannational] Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, Armenian Aid Cross, Nikol Aghbalian Students' Organization, and the General Union of Armenian Sportsmen for its underground activities;

That a secret service has been set up by the ARF's supreme organ, the Bureau, and has functioned with the knowledge of the ARF's Central Committee in Armenia;

I hereby temporarily suspend the activity of the ARF public-political organization until the problem is solved in due legal manner to prevent possible future unlawful activities of the aforementioned service and to ensure the security of the citizens of the Armenian Republic.

Suspension of ARF Activity Called 'Illegal'

NC2912221094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1500 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 29 December (SNARK)—False and far-fetched were called yesterday's accusations of "Dashnaktsutyun" [Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF] revolutionary federation by the Armenian President, in the party's faction statement.

At a press conference today, the chairman of parliamentary committee on juridical issues, Kim Balayan, called illegal the President's decree on suspension of "Dashnaktsutyun" activity, and contradicting the law "On Social and Political Organizations". According to the law, only the Supreme Court of Armenia is legitimate to suspend the parties' activity.

"Dashnaktsutyun" faction expressed deep concern with the political situation created in Armenia "where elementary constitutional norms are trampled upon", and "where the country President assumes the functions [item unfinished as received]

NSDA Criticizes Action Against ARF

NC2912223094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1428 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, December 29 (SNARK)—Today, one of the influential Armenian parties, the National Self-Determination Association [NSDA] spread an official declaration where its position, connected with the decree of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan on temporary halting of activities of Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) "Dashnaktsutyun", was expressed. The declaration reads: "The halting of 'Dashnaktsutyun' activities was the usual proof of the fact that the ruling clique do not need a democratic Armenia, it simply strengthens its powers... The accusations, brought forward by the president are terrible. We don't have enough information about the real fault of ARF 'Dashnaktsutyun'. An open trial must take place..."

As the head of Armenian National Self-Determination Association Paruyr Hayrikyan informed SNARK, Armenian President has no right to act like a judge and bring forward unfounded accusations against concrete people and blame them in murder. By his actions Levon Ter-Petrosyan proved that Armenia is not a legal state but a patrimony of a dictator. The actions of the state powers against "Dashnaktsutyun" confirmed this fact once again, added Hayrikyan.

On the same day the representatives of NSA [item unfinished as received]

ARF Members Deny President's Accusations

NC3012153594 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0904 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Respublica Armenia", "Azg" dailies), 12/30/94—Dashnak [Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF] Deputy Fraction of the RA [Republic of Armenia] parliament yesterday reacted on the presidential decree concerning cessation operation of the party in Armenia.

A press conference was organized in the parliament. A member of the Supreme Council presidium Kim Balayan and his party friends Ruben Torosyan, Hovik Aghasaryan and Garnik Isagulyan have read the declaration of the party which denies involvement of the party to what the President charged them in his speech.

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Fraction declared that presidential decree of December 28 is illegal, and therefore may not have legal power. "Being unable to overcome the crisis resulting from their own policy, leading political group is attempting to make the opposition a scapegoat", says the declaration.

According to the declaration, the President violated topic 7 of the law "About RA public political organizations" which tells that operation of public political organizations may be stopped by the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, reliable sources reported that RA Ministry of Justice prepares a corresponding document to affirm presidential decision.

Main accusations of the President concerned secret group "Dro" [alias of former ARF leader Drastamat Kanayan, now deceased] in ARF "Dashnaktsutyun". Dashnak deputies said in this regard that they are not aware even about existence of such service.

Interior Ministry Reports on Anti-Drug Activities

NC3012154694 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0904 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Azg" daily - Armenpress), 12/30/94—According to the criminalistic department of the RA [Republic of Armenia] Ministry of the Interior, 105,505.5 grams of marijuana, 76.5 grams of hashish, 645.3 grams of opium, 17,753.3 grams of poppy seeds, 152 ampoules of morphine hydrochloride, 5 ampoules of fortral, 1.6 grams of promedol have been captured in the Republic in the current year.

Ministry also fights against transit of narcotics through Armenia, since our Republic has become a specific transit point between Asian and European countries.

Azerbaijan

Gasanov Emphasizes Transportation Via Iran, Turkey

LD2912180994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Dec. 29 (Interfax)—Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov calls for "the stepped-up use" of transportation lines via Turkey and Iran.

"The blockade of our land routes by Russia should not bring our economy to a standstill," Gasanov told Interfax Thursday [29 December].

The Chechen developments moved Russia to close, for the time being, its borders with both Azerbaijan and Georgia.

If Azerbaijan's northern communication lines are blocked, Iran and Turkey appear to be the most reliable and enduring outlets for communication between Azerbaijan and the outside world. In fact, those two countries offer Azerbaijan its only chance to keep in touch with the rest of the world, Gasanov told Interfax.

Instead of calling for the conclusion of special treaties with Iran and Turkey, Hasanov limited his suggestions to "better use of Iranian and Turkish territories by Azeri freight-carriers."

Security Chief, Parliament Speaker Deny Role in Chechnya

MK3012094294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Arif Useynov under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Charges Made, Proof Required. Baku Demands That Russia Resume Transport Communications With Transcaucasus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maj. Gen. Namik Abbasov, Azerbaijani Republic national security minister, has forwarded a cipher telegram to the Russian Federation FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] proposing to his Russian counterparts to jointly check up on information about terrorists and mercenaries who, according to a number of officials in Russia, are allegedly being moved to Chechnya across the republic's territory.

"Unfortunately, what we have is a rather strange form of unfounded accusations with no facts presented," the Azerbaijani special services head told your SEGODNYA correspondent. Mr. Abbasov advised that, in connection with the developments in Chechnya, the president of Azerbaijan ordered the "power" ministers to prevent any instances of hostile activity from the country's territory against Russia. "While no legal agreement has been signed on cooperation between special services of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, we are ready to receive Russian representatives and to jointly consider any question that has to do with concrete facts rather than, let me stress it, unfounded allegations," he said. "The Azerbaijani Republic cannot be responsible for the fact that foreign mercenaries and persons of Azeri nationality, who are not citizens of the republic, are fighting in Chechnya.

Mr. Abbasov also noted that hundreds of trucks with grain and other food meant for Baku have been held up on the territory of Dagestan by a directive of the Russian Federation Customs Committee, and that he did not see how this ban can be related to "mythical mercenaries."

In the meantime, the head of the Azerbaijani parliament, Rasul Guliyev, stated in a press conference yesterday that Azerbaijan views the Chechen crisis as "Russia's internal problem" and regards Chechnya as being part of Russia's territory. Commenting on the decision to suspend transport communications with Azerbaijan, and Georgia, Mr. Guliyev described it as an "abnormal

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occurrence." "Azerbaijan's membership in the CIS will be in question unless this decision is officially rescinded," the Azerbaijani parliament speaker emphasized.

Yusifov Urges State Control To Overcome Economic Anarchy

AU2912182594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 28 Dec 94 p 12

[Interview with Finance Minister Fikret Yusifov by Rovshan Aliyev; place and date not given: "State, Do Not Remain Indifferent!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Aliyev] Mr. Yusifov, how would you characterize the country's economy since becoming an independent state?

[Yusifov] Gross output has decreased by almost 50 percent. This is what I would like to start with. Many enterprises have been halted altogether or are on the verge of stopping. Azerbaijan occupies last place among the CIS countries in the rate of economic reforms. Mechanisms of state regulation of the economy do not function, while market ones have not been created. As a result, some ministries and departments behave like a state within a state. Economic anarchy prevails. For example, [Tahir] Aliyev, chairman of the State Customs Committee, expelled the Ministry of Finance auditors who had arrived to inspect his department.

[Aliyev] Can the budget deficit be explained by the economic decline alone or by some other factors?

[Yusifov] The atmosphere that prevails in the country is conducive to major financial frauds. For example, inspections have shown that almost 350 million manats out of the 400 million of Baku gas stations' daily proceeds do not reach the bank. This sum would suffice to pay pensions over one month. Budget organizations, under the pretext of the need to purchase something, transfer the funds at their disposal to commercial structures. As a result, state funds in these structures bring profit, whereas the state's financial situation increasingly deteriorates. The sharp fall of the rate of the manat in the last few days is due to this.

[Aliyev] What is your department proposing in order to emerge from this difficult financial situation?

[Yusifov] I intend to turn to the parliament with a proposal to declare the state of emergency in the economy. In particular, stringent state control must be introduced over the movement of cash; cash limits must be imposed on all enterprises; and operations, involving sums greater than 1 million manats must be banned. We must see to it that the manat is used as the only means of payment on the territory of Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Assails Deputies on Failed 1995 Budget

LD2912173194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The parliament failed to approve the draft 1995 budget submitted by the government even though the session on Wednesday [28 December] ended late in the evening.

The head of state Eduard Shevardnadze told the press that deputies demonstrated extreme irresponsibility. He said many MPs [members of parliament] were very satisfied with the results of voting.

"They thought that by blocking the budget they got even with the government and the national leadership. The budget itself did not interest them much. The situation is no doubt critical because the draft budget contains provisions that should give an impetus to Georgia's development," Shevardnadze stressed.

He said he would demand an emergency session of parliament on January 10 with maximum attendance. "The budget must be approved by the parliamentary majority," Shevardnadze said.

He accounted his principled stand to the fact that no one would want to deal with a country without a budget and an approaching cabinet crises instead.

The Georgian leader told the press about the planned visits to Georgia in January by the Russian prime-minister and Ukrainian president. "In conditions of a deepening crisis the visits will hardly take place. At the same time many aspects of economic development and the settlement of conflicts directly depend on the visits."

Fears Crisis of Power Over Failed Budget

LD2912140094 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—During the evening of 28 December, Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, in his interview with Georgian television, said that the parliament had failed to adopt the republic's budget for 1995. In his words, under the current circumstances, no one in the country could present the budget in a better way than it had been done. Shevardnadze noted that the opposition, in effect, torpedoed the adoption of the budget without giving any serious grounds for it. The head of state said that a parliament session would be held on 10 January to finally resolve the issue. Should a parliamentary majority fail to resolve the issue of the budget again, then it would simply mean that there is a crisis of power in the republic.

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Lithuania

Russian Embassy Receives Bomb Threats

WS2912153594 Tallinn BNS in English 1324 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 29, BNS—Unidentified persons threatened to blow up the Russian embassy in Vilnius Wednesday in a sign of protest against Moscow's military action in Chechnya.

An anonymous telephone caller warned the embassy's visa department at around 5 p.m. that a bomb would explode inside the embassy building 20 minutes later. No blast occurred at the time indicated or later. No explosives were found inside the embassy.

The daily RESPUBLIKA said another false warning came from an anonymous caller earlier the same day. A man claiming to be a "representative of the Chechen nation" told the newspaper that "certain people" intend blow up the Russian embassy.

Chechnya supporters in Lithuania are scheduled to stage a protest near the Russian embassy at 1 p.m. [1100 GMT] Thursday. Lithuanian police and the embassy said they have taken additional security measures.

Officials on Uranium Anti-Smuggling Efforts

WS2912153994 Tallinn BNS in English 1406 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 29, BNS—Investigators accused the Lithuanian National Security Department of upsetting plans to uncover a nuclear smuggling ring in Lithuania.

The accusation came after the daily RESPUBLIKA reported on Wednesday that undercover security agents arrested two men in the second biggest Lithuanian town of Kaunas and seized 8 kilograms of high-radiation uranium. The seizure was followed by numerous searches in other parts of the country and one more arrest in Vilnius. Police officials suppose that there may be another 100 kilograms of the substance in the hands of criminals.

RESPUBLIKA said it is probable that the seizure in Kaunas may be related to last year's mysterious disappearance of a nuclear fuel rod from the Ignalina nuclear power plant. The rod is said to have contained around 100 kilograms of uranium.

But investigators say all efforts to find more nuclear substances have been ruined by reports in the press. "Now that the press announced about the case, we will never find the actual masters," special cases investigator Kestutis Ragaisis told the Lithuanian daily LIETUVOS RYTAS. "All possibilities to establish them have been cut off."

Ragaisis said the arrested suspects are only middlemen, "people pressed by the misfortunes of life," while uranium trade is in the hands of a "very serious mafia."

Preliminary examinations showed that the confiscated material is uranium 238 containing 5 percent of uranium 235.

Experts say a nuclear bomb can be made from 25 kilograms of the substance enriched above 50 percent, while the uranium used at Ignalina is enriched up to 2 percent. However North Korea is believed to have worked out a technology of how to make weapons-grade uranium from low-enriched material.

Jurgis Jurgelis, head of the Lithuanian Security Department, said he supposes that the uranium was either stolen from Ignalina or on its way to the plant.

Investigators were angered by such an open statement, saying "too many windbags have appeared in the security service."

Ragaisis called the security chief's comments in the press a "very incompetent" action.

"We had different plans, and now we don't," Ragaisis said.

LIETUVOS RYTAS reported that the suspects arrested in Kaunas and Vilnius have been charged with illegal acquisition, possession and resale of radioactive substances. If convicted, they may face up to 5 years in prison.

The newspaper said officials are now worried that other persons involved in nuclear trade may attempt to get rid of the radioactive substances in their hands by throwing them into a river, a lake, a well or some place else. Measurements showed that the uranium seized in Kaunas exceeds the normal level of radiation 50,000 times and poses a great threat to people and the environment.

Two Nuclear Smugglers Arrested

AU2912132094 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1100 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two nuclear smugglers have been arrested in Lithuania. The two men fell into the hands of Lithuanian secret service agents. It is alleged that the radioactive material comes from a 100-kilogram uranium rod stolen from the Ignalina Lithuanian nuclear power plant one year ago.

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